*128. [*The questioners (Shri N. E. Balaram and Shri Suraj Prasad) were absent. For answer*, vide *col.* 39-40 *infra*].

*129. [*The questioner (Shri Aladi Aruna alias V. Arunachalam) was absent. For answer*, vide col. 40 *infra*].

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid the Ministers are going to be in trouble. They would not be prepared. Question No. 130.

Need for administered prices

*130. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Times of India, dated 13th December, 1986 under the caption 'Need for administered prices stressed', and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The news item appearing in the Times of India on 13th December, 1986 relates to the proceedings of the seminar on 'Administered Price Policy' held on 9th December, 1986 at the India International Centre. The Seminar deliberated on issues concerning administered prices in the light of the Discussion Paper on Administered Prices, which was presented to the Parliament on 4th August, 1986. The Discussion Paper on Administered Prices is intended to generate further discussion and initiate a more open to issues involved in setting prices. No specific action is required to be taken by Government on the proceedings of the seminar.

SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the interest of development with equality and social justice, I want to know whether the Government proposes to exercise some control over the prices of raw-material inputs and essential consumption items so that the prices are not left to be determined by the market forces. If not, what other steps does the Government propose to take in this regard?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, exactly the policy on administered prices where was the subject of the paper which was presented on the 4th of August, 1986 by the Finance Minister leads towards this direction. We are taking follow-up action to maintain the prices at reasonable level by bringing efficiency in production and cost also. Various suggestions have been examined about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: No second supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to make one observation. I find that a number of questions are put saying that it has appeared in a paper whether the Government's attention has been drawn. Instead of the newspapers giving publicity to politicians, politicians are giving publicity to the newspapers. You must take the substance of the matter and then ask whether it is a fact or not. You should not say whether a report has appeared in some paper and what it is. You may note it for further reference. If some such question comes hereafter, I will not allow it.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Perhaps the details are being asked. The Member has read the heading and he is asking for details.

*131. [*The questioner (Shri Shanker Sinh Vaghela) was absent. For answer*, vide *col.* 40-41 *infra*].

*132. [*The questioner (Shri Satya Pal Malik) was absent. For answer*, vide *col* 41-42 infra].